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Wilkins Claims Nixon Laid 'Siege' to Blacks

NEW YORK, Jan. 8 (AP) — Roy Wilkins, national director of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, opened the group's 64th annual meeting today with a sharp attack on President Nixon as the man who brought America's black community "unde siege" in 1972.

Wilkins, in remarks to 200 board members and state representatives, said there is a "lack of moral leadership in the White House."

"The reduction in funds for housing subsidies and the weakness of civil rights enforcement are merely the seeds of what may soon become a national disaster," he said.

"The Negro-American community came under siege in 1972," he said. "The surprising aspect is that the siege was launched by the executive branch of the federal government."

Wilkins said, however, that the NAACP itself appears to be doing well — and that it finished the year financially in the black for the first time in a number of years. He said total income for 1972 was more than $1.5 million, and that membership went up 21,000 during the year, for a new total of 412,019.